

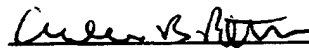


drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the tubular section, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, as recited in new claims 44-49. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of new claims 44-49.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 4, and 5 as new claims 39-41; therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 39-41.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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